A 3275-2

Trends

ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
1920 L STREET, N.W. · WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 · 202/293-4196

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, April 3, 1980 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended March 29 totaled an estimated 18.8 billion ton-miles, 2.6 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 13 weeks of 1980 was an estimated 228 billion ton-miles, 10.0 percent above the comparable period of last year. This represents a record total for the first quarter.

Carloadings in the week ended March 29 totaled 460,715 cars, 6.0 percent below 1979, and 0.8 percent lower than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 10.4 percent in the East, 4.1 percent in the South, and 3.6 percent in the West. Loadings in the West were affected by the Rock Island Railroad.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1979, 17 of the 21 commodity groups declined. However, grain loadings increased by 3,543 cars, or 14.7 percent, coal was up 6,137 cars, or 5.7 percent and nonmetallic minerals showed a gain of 1,072 cars, or 7.9 percent. Twelve of the 21 groups were down from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended March 22 totaled 35,097 cars, down 10.4 percent from the corresponding week of 1979, and 63,742 trailers and/or containers, 8.8 percent lower than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 12 weeks of the year was 403,034 cars, 1.2 percent lower than last year, and 730,231 trailers and/or containers, up 0.9 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 3/29/80.

	Loadings in Week ended March 29, 1980	Change from Corresponding Week 1979			Change from Preceding Week		
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	27,691	I	3,543	14.7	D	3,827	12.1
Other farm products	3,554	I	194	5.8	D	185	4.9
Metallic ores	27,380	D	1,884	6.4	I	919	3.5
Coal	112,920	I	6,137	5.7	I	1,041	0.9
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	13,410	D	2,781	17.2	D	840	5.9
Nonmetallic minerals	14,600	I	1,072	7.9	D	580	3.8
Grain mill products	17,364	D	984	5.4	D	261	1.5
Food and kindred products	19,613	D	258	1.3	I	351	1.8
Primary forest products	19,293	D	2,180	10.2	D	754	3.8
Lumber and wood products except furniture	9,628	D	3,430	26.3	D	769	7.4
Pulp, paper and allied products	22,914	D	225	1.0	I	616	2.8
Chemicals and allied products	30,341	D	2,797	8.4	I	256	0.9
Petroleum products	5,953	D	819	12.1	D	157	2.6
Stone, clay and glass products	15,931	D	3,395	17.6	I	379	2.4
Coke	6,758	D	1,748	20.6	D	543	7.4
Metals and products	20,083	D	1,547	7.2	I	1,088	5.7
Motor vehicles and equipment	19,743	D	8,408	29.9	D	788	3.8
Waste and scrap materials	14,212	D	1,866	11.6	I	185	1.3
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	12,821	D	1,933	13.1	I	527	4.3
All other carloads	46,284	D	5,718	11.0	D	31	0.1
LCL traffic	222	D	274	55.2	D	125	36.0
Total Cars Loaded	460,715	D	29,301	6.0	D	3,498	0.8
Corresponding week of 1979	490,016						

	1980	1979	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (13 weeks)	5,739,711	5,520,579	I	4.0
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
12 weeks cumulative	209.5	189.3	I	10.7
Week ended March 29	18.8	18.3	I	2.6
13 weeks cumulative	228.3	207.6	I	10.0

AARt-040380